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Bolton Says People Do Not Trust CIA

By Norman G. Cornish
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STATINTL

Rep. Frances P. Bolton, the top Republican on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, says the American people "do not trust" the Central Intelligence Agency.

The Ohio lawmaker made the comment in previously secret congressional testimony made public yesterday.

She strongly criticized the Administration for allowing the CIA to issue a recent report contending there were great weaknesses in the Soviet economy and agriculture.

"... I think it was unfortunate that the announcement was made by the CIA," she said. "This is because of the reactions I have had from home. People do not trust the CIA."

Mrs. Bolton, directing her remarks to Under Secretary of State W. Averell Harriman, said:

"If the President had announced it, if you had announced it, if the Secretary of State had announced it, it would have been an entirely different matter. It would have had an entirely different impact. I think it has had almost a bad impact. They do not believe it. I think that is terribly unfortunate."

Mrs. Bolton said, "My people at home are exceedingly worried to have the CIA making foreign policy."

"Who is governing the country, anyway?" she said. "Who is responsible? They do not like it. It gives a sense of insecurity in my area (Metropolitan Cleveland)."

Harriman told the members of a foreign-affairs subcommittee that he was the government official who originally requested the study. But he said he did not make the decision to have it released by the CIA, rather than the State Department or the White House. He said this was done by higher authority.

"It could have been based on the fact that this should

intelligence report to the people of the world and of the United States," he said.

But other lawmakers also criticized the move. Rep. Donald M. Fraser (D-Minn.) said, "If the CIA thought they were helping themselves, I think they were sadly mistaken."

Rep. Dante B. Fascell (D-Fla.) said he was "concerned with the foreign policy implications" and wondered whether it had resulted in adverse criticism of the United States abroad. Rep. H. R. Gross (R-Iowa) said he heard there had been "some kickbacks in the foreign press."

Harriman said, however, that he felt it was wise to bring the situation to international attention to help break down the feeling that the Soviet Union was catching the United States. Harriman said, "Mr. Krushchev says that every day, all the time, that they are catching the United States. This report shows that his predictions are not true."

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